

## **Safe+ WA**

**The Ask:** Feedback regarding the launch/administration of the Safe Places WA program

**Background:** The [Seattle Police Department \(SPD\)](#) created a Safe Place program to “enhance the relationship between SPD, the LGBTQ community and local businesses by providing SPD SAFE PLACE decals and signage to local businesses and organizations and encouraging those entities to clearly post them at the entrances to their premises as a symbol of safety for the victims of LGBTQ crimes and a warning to those who commit those crimes”. They received national recognition for the program, local police departments creating their own version of the program all over the United States. Currently, SPD and the Olympia Police Department are the only two programs in Washington State.

In June of 2016, Governor Inslee issued directive 16-11 (Subject: LGBTQ Inclusion and Safe Places Initiative) creating what is currently known as the RAIN Business Resource Group (BRG) and directing the creation of a program similar to SPD’s SAFE PLACE.

After analyzing multiple options, the RAIN BRG identified that the most appropriate way for State Agencies to fulfill the Governor’s directive was to:

- 1) Promote agency participation when appropriate (criteria being the agency building is public facing and within the city limits of an active police program)
- 2) Act as a consultant to agencies/police departments who may be interested in creating an active police program within their city.

**Our Plan:** Since the State of Washington (DES as the program provider) is not creating a separate program but instead acting as a conduit for agency participation, we determined that creating a website that could provide clear directions on how to participate and tools to make participating easier would be the best approach. The website is currently in the development phase, ready to go live once all the documents are finalized. Although the website will be on a public facing page, its intended audience will be building or personnel administrators who have decision authority for building participation. The website contains:

- History and context to provide a compelling case for participation
- “How to” information for each participating police program
- Informational Resources about the LGBTQ+ community (including recommended trainings)
- State approved tools for quicker implementation (agency policy template already run by the unions, all-staff communication templates that describe the program implementation, building checklist to determine if the building is appropriate for participation, etc.)
- Contact information for agencies who would like support to engage with their local PD to implement a program in their city

### **What we need from you:**

Feedback from your unique vantage point on what could make our plan more effective. Feel free to send it electronically to [Michaela.Doelman@des.wa.gov](mailto:Michaela.Doelman@des.wa.gov)